

Answers to the Written Assembly Questions for answer on 17 February 2010

[R] signifies that the Member has declared an interest.

[W] signifies that the question was tabled in Welsh.

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To ask the Minister for Children, Education and Lifelong Learning

Jenny Randerson (Cardiff Central): In relation to children with severe autism who are seeking to enter Further Education, will the Minister provide statistics for the number of decisions made on funding applications for specialist residential places by the end of March/ May/July/ September/ November 2009 respectively. (WAQ55615)

Answer issued on 18 February 2010

The information requested regarding the approval of funding applications for specialist residential further education for learners with Autistic Spectrum Disorders in 2009 is as follows:

Application:	Jan	Feb/March	April/May	June/July	Aug/Sept	Oct/Nov	Total
Received	8	7	3	1	0	0	19
Approved ¹	n/a	1	1	8	9	0	19

¹ All but one of the above applications were joint funded.

To ask the Minister for the Economy and Transport

Angela Burns (Carmarthen West and South Pembrokeshire): In relation to the A477 improvement from St. Clears to Red Roses, what consideration has been given to the risks of flooding and in particular the risks of flooding to Llanddowror. (WAQ55614)

Answer issued on 08 April 2011

We are aware of the floods, which affected Llanddowror in November 2009 and October 2008.

We are working closely with both Carmarthenshire County Council and the Environment Agency Wales with regard to flooding on the existing A477.

For the A477 Improvement, design parameters were agreed and flood modelling has been undertaken to demonstrate the effect of the proposed embankment on existing flooding on the floodplains of the rivers Taf and Hydfron. This modelling has been reviewed by the Environment Agency Wales and they are content.

To ask the Minister for Health and Social Services

Peter Black (South Wales West): What assessment has the Minister made of the progress report from the Routledge report implementation group led by Professor Mike Harmer, and will she make a statement. (WAQ55616)

Peter Black (South Wales West): What assessment has the Minister made of the implementation of Professor Phil Routledge's report on improving the availability of medicines, and will she make a statement. (WAQ55617)

Answer issued on 30 March 2010

The Routledge Report Implementation Group has provided me with an interim progress report. This demonstrates that all of the recommendations for improving access to medicines have been set on their path to implementation. I am expecting the final report from the Group in March 2010.

Peter Black (South Wales West): What assessment has the Minister made of the financial resource implications of Professor Phil Routledge's report on improving the availability of medicines, and will she make a statement. (WAQ55618)

Answer issued on 30 March 2010

I have recently agreed additional funding of £801,000 in 2010/11 to support the work to implement the recommendations from Professor Routledge's report and to support our work to further improve access to medicines in Wales.

Peter Black (South Wales West): Will the Minister provide details of the membership of the Routledge report implementation group led by Professor Mike Harmer. (WAQ55619)

Answer issued on 30 March 2010

The Implementation Group is led by Dr Stephan Hunter Deputy Chief Medical Officer and chaired by Professor Roger Walker. Other members are:

Professor Phil Routledge

Acting Chief Pharmaceutical Advisor

Professor of Oncology

NHS Consultant

LHB Pharmacist

LHB Director of Resources and representatives from:

Cancer Services Co ordinating Group.

Welsh Medicines Partnership

Velindre Cancer Centre

Royal College of Nursing

Association of British Pharmaceutical Industry Cymru (Wales)

Welsh Medicines Partnership

British Medical Association

Institute of Health and Research Swansea

Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central): What steps has the Minister taken to ensure that the All Wales Medicines Strategy Group (AWMSG) completes the appraisal of any medicines not on the NICE programme within six months of receipt of a company submission. (WAQ55621)

Answer issued on 18 February 2010

Information on the All Wales Medicines Strategy Group (AWMSG) appraisal process for new medicines is available on the AWMSG website at: <http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sites3/page.cfm?orgid=371&pid=9323>

Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central): What steps has the Minister taken to undertake an audit of the use of off-label cancer medicines. (WAQ55622)

Answer issued on 18 February 2010

Information is currently being collated and will form part of the Routledge Implementation Group Report that will be submitted to me in March.

Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central): What steps has the Minister taken to ensure equity of access to exceptional case processes. (WAQ55623)

Answer issued on 18 February 2010

I refer you to the answers I gave on 18 September and 5 November 2009. Interim guidance was issued to Local Health Boards on 12 October outlining the good practice to follow in handling exceptional funding requests, to ensure the process is open and transparent. Revised processes are to be put in place from 1 April 2010 to cover all decisions about exceptional funding and access to treatment, including a mechanism for review and independent appeal.

Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central): What assessment has the Minister made of recommendations within the Richards Review regarding co-payments, and will she make a statement. (WAQ55624)

Answer issued on 18 February 2010

The recommendations within the Richards Review are central to work being taken forward by the Routledge Implementation Group and will be key to addressing the issue of co - payment.

Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central): What steps has the Minister taken to introduce a national guideline for the structures needed and the process employed in Wales for considering exceptional funding requests, and on the collection of data on the decisions made to inform future policy. (WAQ55625)

Answer issued on 18 February 2010

I refer you to the answers I gave on 18 September and 5 November 2009. Interim guidance was issued to Local Health Boards on 12 October outlining the good practice to follow in handling exceptional funding requests, to ensure the process is open and transparent. Revised processes are to be put in place from 1 April 2010 to cover all decisions about exceptional funding and access to treatment, including a mechanism for review and independent appeal.

Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central): Further to her answer to WAQ55563, will the Minister provide a breakdown of how the £300,000 will be spent and what the purpose will be. (WAQ55626)

Answer issued on 18 February 2010

The role of the Welsh Analytical Prescribing Support Unit (WAPSU) is to analyse prescribing data and use the information gained to promote effective prescribing across Wales. The funding being provided is for the Unit's running costs, to include staffing, IT and publications.

Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central): What steps has the Minister taken to ensure that health professionals and those involved in exceptional case decisions have access to the best possible information when considering off-label use. (WAQ55627)

Answer issued on 18 February 2010

I refer you to the answers I gave on 18 September and 5 November 2009. Interim guidance was issued to Local Health Boards on 12 October outlining the good practice to follow in handling exceptional funding requests, to ensure the process is open and transparent. Revised processes are to be put in place from 1 April 2010 to cover all decisions about exceptional funding and access to treatment, including a mechanism for review and independent appeal.

Andrew RT Davies (South Wales Central): How many staff will be employed by the Welsh Analytical Prescribing Support Unit in 2010-11. (WAQ55628)

Answer issued on 18 February 2010

Staffing for the Welsh Analytical Prescribing Support Unit (WAPSU) in 2010-11 has yet to be finalised.

To ask the Minister for Rural Affairs

Brynle Williams (North Wales): Will the Minister make a statement on the progress of the Plant! Project. (WAQ55620)

Answer issued on 24 February 2010

The Plant! project is part of the Welsh Assembly Government's One Wales agenda and is an innovative scheme providing support for indigenous woodlands in helping to create a Welsh National Forest of native trees to act as a carbon sink. The scheme has enabled the planting of a tree to mark the birth, or adoption of every child in Wales since its launch in January 2007.

By the end of this year nearly 113,000 native trees will have been planted on three sites in Wales at Coed Cefn Ila in Monmouthshire; Coed Ysgubour Wen in Gwynedd and Coed Bryn Oer near in Blaenau Gwent.

Forestry Commission Wales and the Woodland Trust/Coed Cadw who manage the scheme on behalf of the Welsh Assembly Government are currently looking for further sites so that people in other parts of Wales will be able to visit a Plant! site and learn about the range of environmental benefits that trees provide.

A public consultation is currently underway for a new Plant! site near a housing estate in Wrexham County Borough Council and if the results of the consultation are positive then this area will be planted with native trees in the coming years.

The scheme has been received very favourably by the people who have now received certificates following the birth or adoption of a child and the following web link offers much more information about the scheme:

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/environmentcountryside/forestry/plantatree/?lang=en>